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8 MS. ESTEVES: I won't take too much of your time.  
9 I'm Pauline Esteves from Death Valley,  
10 California. I am the chairman of the Timbisha-Shoshone  
11 tribe, and I have worked with DOE on the site  
12 characterization studies referring to the cultural  
13 resources out there in Yucca Mountain; however, that  
14 doesn't mean a darn thing to the Yucca Mountain project.  
15 It's meaningless.

16 We have spent many, many hours out there.  
17 The consolidated group of 17 tribes is not true. There is  
18 no 17 tribes going out there representing their own  
19 tribes. There has been consultation with each individual  
20 tribe of the government-to-government relationship that is  
21 known to all of us.

22 I wrote up a few things. An official  
23 written statement will be submitted by the Tribal Council  
24 at a later date. Because this project is so dangerous to  
25 the health and safety of the Timbisha-Shoshone people who

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1 live near Yucca Mountain, a preliminary statement will be  
2 said at this hearing.

1...

3 The Timbisha-Shoshone tribe opposes the  
4 Yucca Mountain project because it places highly radioactive  
5 waste on western Shoshone land that for thousands and  
6 thousands of years will be still radioactive. Accidents  
7 will occur as wastes are transported all over the country.  
8 The containers will eventually leak and contaminate the  
9 groundwater, poisoning future generations. The  
10 Timbisha-Shoshone will eventually become affected by  
11 groundwater when it becomes contaminated.

12 We must act responsibly in order to protect  
13 future generations. Although the DOE considers it to be a  
14 wasteland, this desert land is sacred, and it is stolen  
15 western Shoshone land. We know this land. We have always  
16 lived here, and that is why we will fight to protect it.

17 A few comments will be said about the Draft  
2 18 EIS. [ The Draft EIS for Yucca Mountain project is  
19 confusing, poorly written, and not very well organized. It  
20 seems like the DOE has ignored or intentionally obscured  
21 the real dangers of the project. The Draft EIS is so bad  
22 that it needs to be redone before a Final EIS can be  
23 prepared. ]

24 The following issues, among others, need to  
3... 25 be adequately addressed in a revised Draft EIS: [ (1) The

3... 1 concerns of the Native Americans are briefly noted  
2 throughout the EIS but then completely ignored. For  
3 instance, the issues of environmental justice and risk  
4 assessments for Native Americans living in the region were  
5 not adequately addressed. The DOE needs to listen to  
6 people who have lived here for thousands of years and who  
7 will never leave. If the DOE really knew this place, they  
8 would not want to turn it into a radioactive dump. The  
9 concerns of Native Americans must not be -- must not be  
10 acknowledged, but must be integrated into the Environmental  
11 Impact Analysis.

4 12 (2) The no-action alternative does not  
13 provide reasonable alternatives to the Yucca Mountain  
5 14 project. Real alternatives need to be presented. The  
15 transportation analysis for rail and highway shipments of  
16 nuclear waste is too general to be of any value. Since the  
17 risks of transporting highly radioactive nuclear waste from  
18 all over the country to Nevada are high, detailed studies  
19 of the chosen route should be included in the EIS.

6 20 Government-to-government consultation must  
21 continue with the western Shoshone. Public hearings for  
22 the general public are not the same as  
23 government-to-government consultations between the United  
24 States government and the Indian nations.

7... 25 In conclusion, the western Shoshone were

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1 here thousands of years ago, and if the radioactive wastes  
2 are buried at Yucca Mountain, we will be here to drink the  
3 poisoned water. You may come and go, but we will always be  
4 here. The DOE may not care what happens to this land and  
5 its people thousands of years from now, but we do.

6 We must protect Mother Earth now and for the  
7 future generations. We must act responsibly. The  
8 scientists really don't know what they are doing. They  
9 have no way of really knowing what will be happening here  
10 10,000 years from now, except that the containers will  
11 eventually contaminate the groundwater, poisoning the water  
12 for all the people who will live here in the future. Long  
13 before this happens, trucks or trains carrying nuclear  
14 waste may have accidents, which will contaminate the land  
15 and harm the people.

8

16 The DOE's plans for burying radioactive  
17 wastes are reckless and politically motivated. Yucca  
18 Mountain was chosen because the region is considered an  
19 expendable wasteland by the United States government.  
20 Alternative activities that will work must be developed.  
21 Real consultation with the western Shoshone will help you  
22 find these alternatives.

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23 Our people have already been poisoned by the  
24 nuclear bombs at the Nevada test site. The land needs  
25 healing, not more poison.

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1                   Thank you.

2           THE FACILITATOR: Ervin Lent.

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